

transition between this group and that of the Monimiceæ, to which they likewise approximate the Calycanthaceæ through *Ohionanthus*, and indirectly the Magnoliaceæ through the Trochodendraceæ. A branch of *Eupomatia* which is about to flower swells at its apex into a little club, which becomes concave above and gradually undergoes all the changes of form which are observed in the receptacle of a fig. From the aperture at the bottom of this receptacular sac, the pieces of the andrœcium and gynœcium appear successively in a spiral order.

Hitherto that conical hood which detaches itself circularly at the moment of anthesis has been regarded as a perianth, produced by the fusion of the sepals and petals. The study of its development proves that this sac is produced as a single leaf in the form of a crescent, and that it remains long open on one side. It is a sort of amplexicaul bract, following, in the spiral order, the much narrower bracts which are inserted upon the peduncular portion of the branch. This is a demonstration of the axial nature of the portion of the flower of *Eupomatia* which remains basilar. The last of the modified leaves of this dilated branch (that which is inserted at the level of the margin of the receptacle) becomes inordinately developed, in order to fulfil the function of the perianth, which is wanting; and, like many other cauline leaves of plants allied to this, it finally becomes detached, in the direction of the base of the axis upon which it was borne.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 27, 1868, p. 250.

Note on Rhizocrinus lofotensis.

Prof. Louis Agassiz, in a note to Count Pourtales's paper entitled "Contributions to the Fauna of the Gulf-Stream at Great Depths," observes that the Crinoid that Count Pourtales had called *Bourguetocrinus Hotessieri*, from great depths in the Gulf of Mexico, is evidently the same as Prof. Sars's *Rhizocrinus lofotensis* from the coast of Norway. He further observes that it is highly probable that *Lophohelia affinis* of Count Pourtales, from Florida, is identical with *L. prolifera* from the northernmost coast of Europe, to which it has very likely been transported by the Gulf-stream.

Quoy and Gaimard's Species of Corals.

A considerable number of species of *Alcyonia* are figured and shortly described by MM. Quoy and Gaimard, in the 'Voyage of the Astrolabe.' From the official report on the collection made at the time, and from the Expedition having been a Government Expedition, I had believed that the specimens on which these species are founded would be in the collection of the Jardin des Plantes. Though MM. Milne-Edwards and Haime mention the species in their work on the Corals, the account of them is copied from Quoy and Gaimard's work, and no reference is made showing that the specimens have been seen or examined. It is to be hoped that they have not been lost to science, more especially as Quoy and Gaimard's descriptions are short and sometimes do not contain particulars of the species (as spicules &c.) that are represented on the plates.—J. E. GRAY.